

STAN

Mr. MAHON. I will say to my friend, if we can sleep well at night and relax with a reduction in our defense program, then we ought to vote for the \$2 billion cut.

Mr. GROSS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAHON. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. GROSS. The gentleman has been dealing almost exclusively with the Defense Department.

Mr. MAHON. That is right.

Mr. GROSS. Why? Is this the only place where economies, and very substantial economies, can be effected in Government? How about chopping the \$3 billion out of the foreign giveaway? Would that not be helpful?

Mr. MAHON. I would say this. To some extent the foreign aid program has been in the interest of national defense. For example, the great work of the U-2 aircraft was made possible by foreign aid.

A better job could have been done in foreign aid, but I think it has been an integral part of our defense. We are spending about 4 percent of the defense money on the equivalent of that on foreign aid.

If the reduction could be made out of non-defense spending, then you would not be me in the well making these remarks. But I am told that while some of it can be made in non-defense spending, perhaps half of it. I hope more, nevertheless I am absolutely convinced that a considerable cut would have to be made in defense. If we are to carry out that defense program which we originally thought we had to support, I do not think this is a time that we can fail to support the increase in the debt ceiling.